

Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Board

Approved Minutes for November 7, 2002

Attendees:

Board Members:

Chairman Ralph Hambrick, Vice Chairman Sue Cecil, Louise Burke, Catherine Harold, John Pearsall, Greg Velzy and Jonathan Young.

Others:

Lyn Lanier (Friends of James River Park), Alisia Penn (Department of Public Utilities), Patrick Roberts (City Manager's Office), Bill Trout (Virginia Canal Society) and Ralph White (Parks and Recreation).

Chairman Hambrick called the meeting to order and initiated a review of the minutes. The Board engaged in discussion regarding the appropriate length of the minutes. The Board's consensus was that the minutes do not need to be as exhaustive as those minutes drafted for the previous couple of meetings. The Board decided that the minutes should include the topics of discussion, motions and decisions.

Chairman Hambrick and Jonathan Young briefed the Board on House Joint Resolution No. 159 and the Joint Subcommittee to Study the Operations, Practices, Duties and Funding of the Commonwealth's Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Councils and other Governmental Entities. Hambrick and Young informed the Board of the Subcommittee's previous meeting and the proposals being considered including the consolidation of the entire Scenic River Programs into one statewide board. The Board engaged in a rather lengthy discussion and decided on alerting George Freeman and R. B. Young in an attempt to acquire advice and to influence the Subcommittee.

Jonathan Young briefed the Board on its Freedom of Information Act responsibilities and the Board discussed ways in which the Board could assure compliance with the Act.

John Pearsall initiated a discussion concerning the electronic distribution of the Board's information. Pearsall proposed that the Board distribute information pursuant to a specific topic. The Board engaged in some discussion and the consensus was that electronic distribution is a good idea and should be studied. Sue Cecil volunteered to determine whether other groups have already started this process.

Chairman Hambrick disseminated a letter that he had drafted to the Riverfront Redevelopment Corporation regarding the Riverside Village on Brown's Island, specifically addressing public access to river vistas, and inquired if the Board was willing

to agree to submit the letter. Young made a motion to submit the letter to Riverfront Redevelopment and the motion was agreed to. The Board discussed the appropriateness of forwarding the letter to the press and or writing an editorial or op-ed piece. The Board agreed to wait to draft an editorial or op-ed piece until Riverfront Redevelopment had an opportunity to respond. In addition, the Board agreed that the editorial/op-ed piece should not solely address the Brown's Island project.

Catherine Harold briefed the Board on the latest developments concerning the Surface Water Management proposal.

Ralph White informed the Board of the different proposals being discussed for a pathway and steps from Oregon Hill to the River.

John Pearsall alerted the Board that Lyle Browning has taken the lead on the relocation and storage of the Canal artifacts.

Patrick Roberts briefed the Board on the land acquisition south of the Flood Wall and adjacent to 14th Street. Roberts informed the Board that there was no problem on the City's end of the acquisition though there was some hesitation on the side of Norfolk Southern.

John Pearsall alerted the Board of the continuing process of convincing the City of the need to repair the Riverside Drive shoulder.

Ralph White informed the Board of the progress at the Pumphouse and that the roof is nearing completion.

The Board adjourned at 2:15.